CELEBRATION OF THE HUMANITIES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

RHODE ISLAND COUNCIL for the HUMANITIES
Thank you for joining us this year for the Humanities Council’s third virtual Celebration of the Humanities! We are proud to host the event in this digital format, which allows us to include a deeper look into the work of this year’s remarkable honorees and bring you a keynote address from author and bridge-builder Mónica Guzmán.

The Humanities Council is committed to the process of rebuilding and reimagining new ways of being in community with one another. We look forward to connecting with all of you as we do just that in the coming year, which will mark the Council’s 50th anniversary. The humanities are uniquely suited for this process as we seek to better understand and empathize with others.

This digital program book includes multimedia elements and new ways for you to engage with the Council now and in the future. Enjoy! I hope you find the possibilities for interaction and creativity within these pages inspiring.

Thank you for celebrating these leaders, and for your support of the Council’s work to catalyze the humanities in the service of the common good.

Warm wishes,

Elizabeth Francis, PhD
Executive Director

Engage with us on social media!
@rihumanities
#2022Humanities
WELCOME

CONGRATULATIONS from Rhode Island’s Congressional Delegation

INTERVIEWS WITH HONOREES

KEYNOTE

HUMANITIES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH HONOREES

CLOSING REMARKS

RUN TIME
7:00 - 8:15 PM

VIRTUAL PROGRAM

ELIZABETH FRANCIS, PHD
Executive Director

SENATOR JACK REED
SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE
REPRESENTATIVE JIM LANGEVIN
REPRESENTATIVE DAVID CICILLINE

Ana González
Host

MOÑICA GUZMÁN
Author of "I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times"

2022 CELEBRATION OF THE HUMANITIES HONOREES
moderated by Ana González

GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

Honorary Chairs’ Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities
JOAN ABRAMS

Tom Roberts Prize for Creative Achievement in the Humanities
JOSH SHORT

Innovation in the Humanities Award
HAUS OF GLITTER FOR "THE HISTORICAL FANTASY OF ESEK HOPKINS"

Public Humanities Scholar Award
THE DORR REBELLION PROJECT WEBSITE TEAM

ANA GONZÁLEZ
Host

ANA GONZÁLEZ
Host

STDCH Humanitate

HUMANITIES ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH HONOREES

CLOSING REMARKS

ANA GONZÁLEZ
Host
Henry D. Sharpe, Jr.
(1923 - 2022)
Civic and Philanthropic Leader
Former President & CEO of Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Co.

For more about Henry, click here.

Judy Barrett Littoff, PhD
(1944 - 2022)
Historian, Author, and longtime professor at Bryant University
2007 Honorary Chairs’ Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities

For more about Judy, click here.
Honorary Chairs’ Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities

JOAN ABRAMS
Educator, Civic Leader, Philanthropist, and Humanities Advocate

The Lifetime Achievement Award celebrates career achievements that demonstrate humanities excellence, reflect the Council’s mission and core values, and enrich public life in Rhode Island. The 2022 Award recognizes Joan Abrams for her decades of service in both professional and volunteer capacities to support the state’s leading humanities, cultural, arts, and environmental organizations. Abrams embodies the connection between the humanities and civic health through community participation and contributions to community wellbeing.
The Tom Roberts Prize celebrates creativity in topics, disciplines, and formats that extend the field of the humanities. As Founder and Artistic Director of the Wilbury Theatre Group, Josh Short has built a dynamic company that breathes life into the twin ideas that theatre must be for everyone and theatre must make you think. For a dozen years, Short has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to producing theatre that reflects our shared human ability to examine and express our thoughts, feelings and values, bringing stories to the stage from the widest swath of sources imaginable.
HAUS OF GLITTER for 
"THE HISTORICAL FANTASY OF ESEK HOPKINS"

Recognizing the innovative implementation of the humanities by an organization or a collaborative partnership between organizations to achieve a specific goal, this year’s Award honors The Haus of Glitter Dance Company and Performance Lab for their activist dance opera "The Historical Fantasy of Esek Hopkins." This singularly moving and effective set of performances is a collective exploration and intervention into Rhode Island’s history of slavery and race. The work opened new pathways for public humanities practices and conversations about race, memory, and healing.
Public Humanities Scholar Award

THE DORR REBELLION PROJECT WEBSITE

a collaboration of the Phillips Memorial Library+Commons at Providence College, Erik Chaput, PhD, and Russell DeSimone

The Scholar Award recognizes outstanding public humanities work in teaching and scholarship that advances the civic and cultural life of Rhode Island. This year’s Award honors The Dorr Rebellion Project Website, a collaboration of the Phillips Memorial Library+Commons at Providence College, Erik Chaput, PhD, and Russell DeSimone. The site is an authoritative online educational resource on the Dorr Rebellion of 1841-43, the most significant constitutional and political event to occur in Rhode Island history which challenged the bounds of American democracy, constitutionalism, and multiculturalism. The site ensures that students and the public have access to a wealth of resources on this multifaceted event which remains relevant today.
Since 1973 the Council’s grants, partnerships, and initiatives have put the humanities into action—connecting history to the present, increasing access to culture, engaging issues that matter, encouraging young people to develop their talents and identities, and ensuring that Rhode Island’s many voices are heard.

As an independent nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council has provided over $8 million in grants.

Support the Council at: rihumanities.org/get-involved/donate

These grants have supported more than 700 organizations throughout Rhode Island, as well as independent researchers, filmmakers, scholars, and oral historians.

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for your partnership and advocacy on behalf of the humanities in Rhode Island.

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MEET KEYNOTE SPEAKER MÓNICA GUZMÁN

Mónica Guzmán is an award-winning journalist, bridge-builder, and the author of "I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times." Guzmán also serves as director of digital and storytelling at Braver Angels, the nation’s largest cross-partisan grassroots organization working to depolarize America. She is host of a live interview series at the Pacific Northwest’s independent news outlet Crosscut and is cofounder of the award-winning Seattle newsletter "The Evergrey." She was a 2019 fellow at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, where she studied social and political division, and a 2016 fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, where she researched how journalists can rethink their roles to better meet the needs of a participatory public. She was named one of the 50 most influential women in Seattle and served twice as a juror for the Pulitzer Prizes. A Mexican immigrant, Latina, and dual US/Mexico citizen, she lives in Seattle with her husband and two children.

“Monica Guzman brings bad news and good news. The bad news is there is no answer for the problems of our polarized, toxic politics. The good news is, we don’t need answers. We need more questions. In this perceptive, wise, accessible book, Guzman shows us how to ask more humane questions of our fellow Americans. She shows us that by seeking truly to understand rather than judge, every one of us can improve our country’s civic culture. Curiosity cures. Read this book, then live it.”

—Eric Liu, CEO, Citizen University, and author, "You’re More Powerful Than You Think: A Citizen’s Guide to Making Change Happen"
REFLECTION AND CURIOSITY

This book discussion guide is intended to provide inspiration for personal reflection and to spark conversation about Mónica Guzmán’s “I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times.”

Reflection questions for groups or individuals:

- What was your biggest takeaway from the book?
- Did you learn anything about yourself from the book? If so, what?
- Has reading this book changed your opinion of a certain person or topic?
- What, if anything, surprised you about the book?
- Who would you like to share this book with and why?
- Are there any lingering questions from the book that you’re still thinking about?
- If you could ask the author any question, what would it be?
- Did you end up doing extra research on anything presented in the book? If so, what did you find?
- Do you believe the topic was covered adequately in the book? If not, what do you wish had been explained more?
- Have you tried any of the strategies described in the book to have conversations with people in your life? If so, how did the conversations go? What were the outcomes?

Spark! If your curiosity was piqued about civic engagement and the humanities, here are some additional resources you may enjoy.

From the Humanities Council:
- “Culture Is Key: Strengthening Rhode Island’s Civic Health Through Cultural Participation” by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities PDF available at: https://bit.ly/3zF4cfw
- “2022 Rhode Island Civic Health Index” by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship and the Rhode Island Department of State (forthcoming, September 2022)

From other sources:
- Citizen University’s “Civic Saturday” program at: https://citizenuniversity.us/participate/civic-saturday/
- Weave: The Social Fabric Project at: https://weareweavers.org/
- Braver Angels at: https://braverangels.org/
- Made By Us: a coalition of 150+ museums, historic sites and historical societies joining forces to serve the next generation – meeting curiosity with credibility and their Civic Season initiative, a new tradition to rewind, reflect and re-imagine our story – and it’s shaped by all who participate. More at: https://historymadebyus.com/ and https://www.thecivicseason.com/.

Need books? The Humanities Council has a limited supply of Guzmán’s books, while supplies last. Contact Rachael Jeffers at rachael@rihumanities.org if you are hosting a discussion group that’s free and open to the public and need extra copies of the book.

This guide and the resources provided within it were compiled by the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities in conjunction with the 2022 Celebration of the Humanities. Readers are invited to share their reflections on social media by tagging the Humanities Council @rihumanities and author Mónica Guzmán @moniguzman. If you would like to contact the author with your thoughts, curious conversation is welcome! You can find Mónica’s contact information on her website: moniguzman.com.
CATALYST ($1,000)

Joan & Richard Abrams
Adler Pollock & Sheehan, PC
Cherry Arnold & Peter Goldberg
Axis Advisors/Axis Acts!
Bryant University
The Providence Athenaeum
City of Providence Department of Art, Culture, and Tourism
Elaine & Barry Fain
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Rhode Island PBS
Providence College
David Carden & Rebecca Riley
Wheaton College
John & Liz White and Taco/The White Family Foundation
Don & Kitty Wineberg

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HUMANIST ($500)

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Elizabeth Francis
Touba Ghadessi & John Richard
Polly Hutcheson & George Rice in honor of Joan Abrams
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William Vareika Fine Arts in honor of Joan Abrams
Connie Worthington & Terry Tullis
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Mary-Kim Arnold & Matthew Derby
Becca Bertrand & Doug Kohler
Winifred Brownell, PhD
Gather Glass
Gayle L. Gifford & Jonathan W. Howard
Francis J. Leazes, Jr. PhD
Julie Nora
Mary Lee Partington
Taylor Polites

Preserve Rhode Island/Lippitt House Museum
Douglas Best & Maureen Reddy
Jeannette E. Riley & Kathleen M. Torrens
Tom Roberts
Josh Stenger & Shannon Dolan
Tanury Industries
Jessica L. Weinstein
Marie & Alan Weiss

FRIEND ($100)

Anonymous celebrating Joan Abrams
Amy Barlow & Peter Kammerer
Kathleen Breen Combes
Elizabeth Brito
Thomas & Antonia Bryson
Morgan Devlin
Heather, Jeff, Sofia, & Bella Dickinson
   in honor of Russell DeSimone
Anne Earle in honor of Joan Abrams
FirstWorks
Wayne Franklin
Harkins Wealth Management
Barb Jeffers in memory of Herrick Jeffers
Paula Keogh in honor of Joan Abrams
Daniel Kertzner
Matthew Lawrence & Jason Tranchida
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Congratulations to the 2022 Celebration of the Humanities Honorees

The University of Rhode Island is proud to recognize the people and projects that bring vitality to the Ocean State.

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Stories that get to the heart of what matters.

Grant Impact

in 2022

$176,264 awarded to 27 organizations and 5 individuals through 32 grants
MAJOR GRANT AWARDS

Public Projects
In support of organizations that enrich and enliven the life of our state through public humanities programs.

Amos House, $12,000
Therapeutic Enrichment Activities to Support Recovery

Capeverdean American Community Development, $12,000
Recuperating History through Dance: A Rhode Island Story of Cape Verde

DownCity Design, $5,000
Broad Street Cultural Heritage Design Studios

FirstWorks, $12,000
Raise Your Voice: Widening the Circle through Narratives and Dance

Little Compton Historical Society, $12,000
The Secrets of Cellar Holes: Blending Public Archeology and Local History in Little Compton

Manton Avenue Project, $12,000
Imagining the "New Normal": Playwriting for Youth in Olneyville, Community Tour and Public Programs

Naval War College Foundation, $9,240
Rogers High School International Studies & Leadership Program

Providence Community Library, $6,600
Providence Seed Library

Queer.Archive.Work, $12,000
Queer/Trans Zinefest (QTZ) 2022

Rhode Island Black Storytellers, $12,000
FULLY Ourselves: A Story of Black Tennis

Rhode Island Historical Society, $5,000
Providence Commemorative Works Project: Phase 1

Riverzedge Arts, $8,400
Woonsocket Social Flatlands Wayfinding Markers

School One, $8,100
Write Rhode Island

Stages of Freedom, $12,000

DOCUMENTARY FILM & MEDIA
In support of documentary films and media projects that preserve Rhode Island’s stories and bring its history to life.

Rhode Island Slave History Medallions, $5,000
Marking the Landscape of the Enslaved People of Rhode Island

Watch the major grant videos here.
Learn more about the Council’s Initiatives:

**RhodeTour.org**

Digital tours that bring Rhode Island stories to life, connecting civic engagement to stories of the past. Download the app for free or explore online.
- 36 tours
- 359 stories
- 46,518 users in past year

Partners: John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University and the Rhode Island Historical Society

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**Rhode Island Expansion Arts Program**

Rhode Island’s Diversity Is a Civic Strength

This program offers funding and organizational assistance to community-based, culturally diverse cultural organizations.

Application Open! Emerging arts and cultural organizations of color can apply for capacity-building grants of $30,000. The application deadline is: October 14, 2022. Details at: rihumanities.org/program/expansion-arts/

Partners: The Rhode Island Foundation and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts

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**RI Civic Health Index**

Rhode Island’s first ever, data-driven report assessing the state of Rhode Island’s civic health, helping us to understand where we are and where we’re going, together.

Stay tuned next week, September 27, 2022, as the Index becomes available online and in limited print run.

Funders and Partners: This initiative is supported by the “A More Perfect Union” initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rhode Island Foundation, and is being produced in partnership with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCOC) and the Rhode Island Department of State.

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**Culture Is Key: Strengthening Rhode Island’s Civic Health through Cultural Participation**

In 2020-2021, the Council undertook “Culture Is Key,” an initiative to understand, test, and evaluate the role of cultural participation on our state’s civic health. The resulting report: “Culture Is Key: Strengthening Rhode Island’s Civic Health through Cultural Participation” is available for free digital download on the Council’s website.

Funders: “Culture Is Key” was supported by the Rhode Island Foundation, the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
October is National Arts and Humanities Month! This year’s theme for Rhode Island’s Arts and Humanities Month is “Culture Builds the Future.” The RI Council for the Humanities and the RI State Council on the Arts (RISCA) will be celebrating with programs that explore how arts, culture, and the humanities build more vibrant futures by building more vibrant communities and positively impacting education, the environment, public health, and civic health. The Humanities Council and RISCA will also share new tools and resources that will demonstrate how arts, culture, and the humanities strengthen our communities, including the RI Arts Education dashboard, the first-ever “RI Civic Health Index,” and the recent “Culture is Key: Strengthening Rhode Island’s Civic Health Through Cultural Participation” report.

National Arts and Humanities Month Highlights:

**September 27: Launch of the RI Civic Health Index**
Rhode Island’s first ever, data-driven report assessing the state of Rhode Island’s civic health, helping us to understand where we are and where we’re going, together.

Stay tuned next week, September 27, as the Index becomes available online and in limited print run.

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**October 6: PORTALES: Reimagining the Future - Dance Performance & Story Circle.**
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the WaterFire Arts Center in Providence. The “PORTALES: Reimagining the Future” exhibit will be accompanied by a dance performance by Sokeo Ros and story circle held by Anjel Newmann on Thursday, October 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Story Circle is supported in part by a partnership with the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, and is also supported by a project grant from RISCA.

**PENDING – October 26 or 27: “How Culture Builds the Future”**
Panel co-hosted by the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

Check out the Humanities Council website for more information about activities and resources available throughout the month celebrating the ways that #CultureBuildsTheFuture.
The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities seeds, supports, and strengthens public history, cultural heritage, civic education, and community engagement by and for all Rhode Islanders. For nearly 50 years, we have cultivated diverse expressions of the public humanities through vital and innovative public programs, research, and media projects that have reached millions of people in Rhode Island and beyond. We are a catalyst for engagement with our state’s remarkable history and culture, and believe in the power of the humanities community to inspire and improve Rhode Island.

The Council was founded in 1973 as an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. A private nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, the Council is supported by federal and private funds.

Make a gift to support the Council’s work, visit: rihumanities.org/get-involved/donate

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